

and doors with a memorial service at HUD headquarters. This is truly because she touched and moved so many lives.

Mr. Speaker, it was once said that "nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion." I truly believe that Ms. Chavis had a great and intense passion to serve others and promote fairness. That great passion allowed her to accomplish so many great things that we are indebted to her now and forever.

Particularly, I want to recognize a host of family and friends she left behind: her husband, George Anderson; her son Jamie Chavis; her parents, William Ira and Arlanda Chavis; four brothers, William Ray Buston, Gerald Patterson, Ira Rudolph, and William Randolph; two sisters, Ruth Bryant and Linda Coley; three grandchildren, Carlton, Jamillya, and William Patrick Chavis; nine nephews, and six nieces; three close friends; Vyllorya A. Evans, Evelyn Okie, and Shirley Wells. I join them in celebrating the life of a great human being, public servant, and American.

1999 SIXTH DISTRICT ESSAY
CONTEST WINNERS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the work of some bright young men and women in my district.

Each year, my office—in cooperation with junior and senior high schools in Northern Illinois—sponsors an essay writing contest. The contest's board, chaired by my good friend Vivian Turner, a former principal of Blackhawk Junior High School in Bensenville, IL, chooses a topic and judges the entries. Winners of the contest share in more than \$1,000 in scholarship funds.

Today, I have the honor of naming for the RECORD the winners of this year's contest.

This year, Kathryn Solari of Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge, IL, won the junior high division with an essay titled, "Coach—One Who Teaches or Trains an Athlete," a text of which I include in the RECORD. Placing second was Jennifer C. Miller of St. Peter the Apostle School in Itsaca. This year, we had a three-way tie for third place in the junior high division among: Omar Germino of St. Charles Borromeo School in Bensenville, Sam Francis of Glen Crest Middle School in Glen Ellyn, and Rachel Soden of Westfield School in Bloomingdale.

In the Senior High School Division, the first place award went to Paul McGovern of Driscoll Catholic High School in Addison for his essay, "Teofilo Lindio," a text of which I include in the RECORD. Carl Hughes of Maine South High School in Park Ridge finished second, and third place went to Katherine Yeu, also from Driscoll Catholic High School.

I wish to offer my congratulations to all this year's winners.

TEOFILO LINDIO—THE SIX PILLARS OF
CHARACTER

(By Paul McGovern, Driscoll Catholic,
Addison, IL)

I consider my grandfather, Teofilo Lindio, to be an exemplary role model. My Lolo (the

Philippine word for grandfather) was born on March 8, 1912, in Legaspi, a small province in the Philippines. Though I have been to the Philippines to see him only once, I have heard much of him from my mother. According to her, Teofilo was an honest, caring individual who accepted what came to him in life, and strove to make the most of it. He was sincerely devoted to his God, to his family, and to his fellow man. My Lolo's solid Christian beliefs formed the foundation on which the Six Pillars of Character were laid—the pillars, which ultimately formed and upheld his reputation as a great man within his community.

Teofilo was the fifth of seven children of a wealthy commercial farmer. However, when his father died, Teofilo inherited little, since most of the land went to the older sons. At this point, Teofilo had to make a choice. He was already married, and his wife was about to have a child. Teofilo had been at the top of his high school class, so college was a very possible option for him. After considering the consequences of this option, he made the responsible choice. He used the money he had to start his own carpentry business so that he could better support his family.

Eventually, Teofilo's business grew and he began to amass a small fortune. Rather than indulge himself in luxuries, he decided to make a difference in his community of Legaspi. Teofilo would make free coffins for the poor people in his community. Every Sunday after church, he would host a picnic in which all of the impoverished people in the community could eat for free. This compassion earned him his reputation as a generous, caring man. Eventually, however, the amount of money that he spent on feeding the poor became too much, as more and more poor persons came to eat each Sunday. His business underwent tough times, and soon he was forced to stop his charity. In one particularly difficult period during the 50's, Teofilo and his family had trouble finding enough food to eat. All of his children who were old enough to work had jobs so that the family could feed and clothe itself. Even in tough times, Teofilo still showed fairness in his dealings with customers, and continued to do quality work for a fair price. Morals were more important to him than money. He did not blame God, the poor whom he fed, or himself for the state of poverty he was in. Knowing that Teofilo was a generous man, wealthy people offered him aid in his time of trouble. Teofilo "took turns and shared," and thus moved others to do the same.

In my opinion, my Lolo was simply an all-around outstanding individual. His trustworthiness was shown in his commitment to his family. Teofilo was honest in his marriage, and put his family first in his life. According to my mother, he spent every night with the family, asking all nine of his children how their days went, telling jokes, and discussing Bible stories. He promised to always be there for them, and he was. He continually said to me over the phone, "No family gathering can be complete without you and your dad." Another instance of this trustworthiness is when his wife became very sick in the 50's. Teofilo made a promise to God that if his wife recovered, he would sing the Pasyon (Passion and Resurrection of Christ) on every Holy Thursday and Good Friday—2 whole days, without sleep—until the end of his life. His wife recovered, and he faithfully kept his promise.

Teofilo showed respect for others as well. He respected the poor as human beings who had the right to eat just as he did. He respected his children's right to make deci-

sions about their future. He did not force his sons to work in his business, but instead encouraged them to achieve higher education and do what brings them the most joy. Neither did he force his daughters to marry any particular young man, even though his parents forced him into a marriage. Teofilo taught his children that keeping a level head and peaceful disposition is the best way to resolve a conflict. While visiting the Philippines, one of my relatives told me a possibly exaggerated story of how Teofilo caught a burglar who broke into his house. He held a large knife to the burglar's neck, forgave him, and let him leave peacefully. The burglar never attempted to steal from Teofilo's house again. Teofilo was also a model for outstanding citizenship. Whenever there was a fire in the community he would volunteer his help, even if it occurred in the middle of the night. He made his community a better place by feeding the poor. Even in tough times, the temptation to steal was never able to ensnare him. The worst law violation he committed in his lifetime was not reporting the burglar. In this violation of state law, he upheld the "law" of the Church—to forgive and forget. An extremely diligent individual, Teofilo never went into complete retirement. He still continued to repair and build houses up until his death.

Lolo died on February 28, 1999 of a heart attack at age 86, just before he was able to finish building an altar in his house. After the period of mourning, my family and I looked back at what Teofilo Lindio had done in his lifetime. While he was only moderately successful in an academic and material sense, his character was certainly most admirable. Though he, like all people, must have had his bad points, he was, overall, a great man. I must say that I am proud to be a descendant of Teofilo Lindio.

COACH—ONE WHO TEACHES OR TRAINS AN
ATHLETE

(By Kathryn Solari, Mary, Seat of Wisdom
School, Park Ridge, IL)

People often compare life to many things. Since athletics have been very important to me, I could compare life to a series of basketball games. Good character then is the attitude by which you approach, play, and finish the game. It is similar to life in that if you don't do things with a good attitude, you won't get very much out of the game. A role model is like a coach. The coach is someone who has played the game before and is continuing to work on improving his game. He tries to teach you all that he has learned and helps you to become a better player so one day you can make smart plays on your own. He is there to congratulate you when you win and comfort you when you lose. No matter what, his guidance becomes a part of you and has a great influence on your game. It is important to have role models in your life who act as coaches. My coach, teammate, referee, fan, and role model is my dad. He has not only told me, but has shown me how to win in the game of life. He has done this by being responsible, respectful, and caring.

My father is very caring. To me, caring means putting others before yourself. My father truly cares for my family. He cares for and loves his wife and all four of his children. There is nothing he wouldn't do for us. After a hard day's work, he comes home and greets each of us with a smile no matter where we are in the house. He asks us if we need help on our homework because he cares about how well we do in school. My dad and I must have done thousands of math problems together. On any given night, he is

quizzing us on vocabulary or testing us on our school subjects. However, our grades don't matter as much to him as long as we try our best. His guidance in decision making is always helpful. On Thursday and Friday mornings he gets up early with my sister and me to help us get ready for band. He takes care of us when we are sick, comforts us when we are sad, and laughs with us when we are happy. Most of all, he makes each of us feel important and special in our own way.

My dad shows how caring he is through his service in the community. If anyone in the neighborhood needs help, my dad will help them with anything from taking care of a pet to vacuuming out a flooded basement. He is currently coaching four basketball teams because he feels all children should have the opportunity to play. During parish mission projects, my dad generously donates his time to assist however possible. During the shoe box drive at church, for example, he wrapped shoe boxes, bought needed supplies at the store, and cleaned up after everyone left. He has delivered furniture to a family in Roger's Park as well as packed peanut butter sandwich lunches for the needy. My father is a person who truly loves and cares for others.

My father tries to respect everyone. To me, respect is treating others the way you want to be treated no matter how they treat you. My father is very fair. He has probably learned that from raising four children. If he is going to let my sister stay up a little later, then he lets us all stay up a little later. He also gave everyone on my basketball team equal playing time this year. He is very polite and shows good sportsmanship. Being considerate, my father tries to think about how things will affect others. He is always open to new ideas and never laughs at things unless they are meant to be funny. If there was an award for the most patient and easy going person, I am sure my dad would win it. His positive outlook on life and his gentle ways of speaking win him others' respect. My father never yells at anyone. Instead, he talks things out and treats people with respect. He tries to bring out the best in everyone.

My father has a lot of responsibilities in his life, which he handles well. He is, first of all, responsible for his family. He works all day to provide for us. He also helps around the house doing various chores. His responsibilities as a father are endless. He also has a responsibility to love and be faithful to my mom. He is responsible for helping his parents and my mom's parents with things around their homes as well as with financial advice. Many of his responsibilities lie outside our family. He is involved in many of the decisions regarding our school's expansion project this year. He is on the finance committee at his old high school, as well as many committees in our parish. To fulfill his religious responsibilities, he attends church regularly, is a Eucharistic minister, makes financial contributions to the church, and tries to live out the Gospel.

My dad is a very important and irreplaceable part of my life. He has taught me much about life and has set my life on a good, strong foundation. I know that my dad will always be there to guide me, comfort me, help me, and celebrate with me. Next year, I will be starting high school. There will be many changes in my life. I know that things won't be as difficult because I have a great role model and coach walking with me every step of the way. Knowing my father, the best way to thank him would be to live my life as he has coached me, to be a caring, respectful,

and responsible person. With a coach like my dad and God on my side, I know I'll be a winner in the game of life.

VFW'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of VFW's 100th anniversary, I want to recognize the efforts of this worthwhile organization that continues to assist tens of thousands of veterans, as well as their dependents and survivors. Today, the VFW's 2 million veterans, and its auxiliaries' 750,000 members, provide \$2.7 million annually in scholarships and awards to U.S. high school students. In addition, the VFW provides \$3 million annually for cancer research and \$15 million for veteran-service programs.

In Texas alone, there are approximately 174,452 retired military who have done their part in defending our country—we need to recognize their service. On Memorial Day, I will be presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Army Captain James Flowers who served our country during World War II. During an invasion of Normandy, Mr. Flowers lost both legs. The tragedy Mr. Flowers suffered should not go unrewarded.

I am consistently awed by the great sacrifice committed by so many of behalf of this great nation. Let us not forget the goals of the VFW as noted in the 1936 congressional charter: "To assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate their memory . . . ; and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States; to maintain and extend the institutions of freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

ESTABLISHING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to encourage the establishment of free trade agreements between the United States and certain Pacific Rim countries.

H.R. 1942 directs the President to initiate preliminary consultations with the governments of each eligible Pacific Rim country to determine the feasibility and desirability of negotiating the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers in the context of a bilateral free trade agreement. If a positive determination is made, the President shall request a meeting at the ministerial level to consider the conditions under which formal negotiations regarding a free trade agreement could be commenced. The countries that may be considered for eligibility are the members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Group (APEC.)

Because open markets increase competition, eliminate inefficiencies, and result in lower costs to consumers and manufacturers, trade liberalizing agreements improve our prosperity and encourage the creation of secure, higher wage jobs. Sadly, the President's failure to support the passage of trade negotiating authority in this Congress has crippled the United States trade agenda and has brought a halt to the expansion of international markets for U.S. exports.

This legislation responds to the President's inaction by calling on him to investigate opportunities for negotiating free trade agreements with long time U.S. allies in working to increase economic growth through trade liberalization, both in the World Trade Organization and in APEC. Countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore, because of the largely open nature of their economies and their track record of supporting United States trade negotiating objectives, are countries which would be eligible immediately under the criteria established in this bill.

Building closer ties and coordinating with countries whose interests are largely friendly to the United States will have immense pay-offs as trade negotiations in APEC and the World Trade Organization proceed. Bilateral and multilateral trade agreement negotiations, such as the NAFTA, have been shown to exert constructive pressure on multilateral and regional trade negotiations. Bilateral trade talks enlarge common areas of agreement on trade rules and disciplines which can then be advanced more successfully in the context of larger negotiations among additional trading partners. This bill is all about finding opportunities wherever we can to break down barriers to United States exports and keep the trade agenda moving forward.

The real advantage of this legislation is that it will improve and expand our trade ties with countries in the Pacific Rim region and reassure countries that the United States, despite the absence of trade negotiating authority, is not turning inward and adopting a trade policy defined by narrow and inward-looking special interests. H.R. 1942 would direct the President to pursue aggressively more open, equitable, and reciprocal market access for United States goods and services. Continuing the pursuit of lower economic barriers and standardized rules and procedures governing international business will yield enormous benefits to our firms and workers. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important bill.

BOB COOK TURNS 80

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent who has rendered great service to his country and his community and who will turn 80 on June 19. His family and friends will honor him at a surprise fete on Saturday, May 29, in Duck, North Carolina.

Robert (Bob) Cook worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 26 years before he